CIA/OCI/BRIEF 129-75 19 AUGUST 1975

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EAST ASIA BRIEF 129-75.4

L. LAOS: COMMUNIST-SPONSORED DEMONSTRATIONS IN SUPPORT OF AN END TO VIENTIANE'S NEUTRAL STATUS ARE CONTINUING.Y

TWO GROUPS OF SEVERAL HUNDRED EACH DEMONSTRATED IN SEPARATE PARTS OF THE CITY ON AUGUST 18. THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE ORDERLY, PEACEFUL, AND HEAVILY ESCORTED BY PATHET LAO TROOPS. THE COMMUNISTS SEEM UNABLE TO STIR UP ANY REAL ENTHUSIASM FOR THESE AFFAIRS, AND ONE MARCH WAS DESCRIBED AS MORE LIKE A FUNERAL PROCESSION THAN A POLITICAL RALLY. THE FARTICIPANTS FARROTED COMMUNIST SLOGANS, CALLING FOR THE REMOVAL OF NON-COMMUNIST LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.Y

A FINAL MASS RALLY BY CITY RESIDENTS AND PEOPLE FROM
SURROUNDING VILLAGES AUGMENTED BY PATHET LAO TROOPS ARE SUPPOSED
TO CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT TO "LIBERATE" VIENTIANE BY CHANGING
THE 1979 PEACE ACCORDS SO THAT THE CITY IS NO LONGER TERMED
NEUTRAL. Y

THE COMMUNISTS ARE CONCENTRATING ONLY ON THE ADMINISTRATION

OF VIENTIANE CITY AND HAVE MADE NO APPARENT EFFORT TO USE THE

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 124-75.4

ARGENTINA: THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE APPOINTMENT OF ARGENTINE ARMY COLONEL VICENTE DAMASCO AS INTERIOR MINISTER IS SUBSIDING.//

//A RECENT COMMUNIQUE HAS ACKNOWLEDGED PRESIDENT MARIA ESTELA
PERON'S RIGHT TO NAME A HILITARY OFFICER TO THE CABINET. BUT
DISSOCIATED THE ARMY FROM SUPPORTING HIM. THE ARMY. CITING THE
LETTER OF THE LAW. DECLARED IT WOULD CONTINUE TO BE REPRESENTED IN
THE GOVERNMENT ONLY BY THE DEFENSE MINISTER OR BY THE COMMANDER-INCHIEF.//Y

//DAMASCO IS MOVING TO ASSUME DIRECTION OF THE DAY-TO-DAY
BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT, WITH PERON AS A CEREMONIAL CHIEF OF STATE.
HE HAS TRIED TO STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION BY IDENTIFYING STRONGLY
WITH THE LATE JUAN PERON. THE NEW INTERIOR MINISTER CLEARLY SHOWED
HIS INTENTION TO BE THE DOMINANT FORCE IN THE GOVERNMENT WHEN HE
CLAIMED TO HAVE RECEIVED A NATIONAL PLAN-"POLITICAL IN NATURE"-FROM JUAN PERON SHORTLY BEFORE THE LATTER'S DEATH-3/Y

//THE INTERIOR MIBISTER ALSO SUGGESTED THAT HE PAVORS

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DECISION-MAKING BY CONSENSUS AND THAT HE OPPOSES THE AUTOCRATIC WAYS OF THE EXILED LOPEZ REGA-//Y

//UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT. THE 49-YEAR-OLD DAMASCO HAS SERVED AS MILITARY SECRETARY AND SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE PRESIDENCY. DESPITE THE RESULTING CLOSE CONTACT WICH LOPEZ REGA. DAMASCO MANAGED TO AVOID BECOMING CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE OUSTED PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER.//Y

//POLITICAL SKILL AS WELL AS A SOUND MILITARY REPUTATION NO DOUBT MADE THIS POSSIBLE: THESE SAME TRAITS PROBABLY ENABLED DAMASCO TO SURVIVE THE PURGE THAT FOLLOWED THE MILITARY'S OVERTHROU OF PERON IN 1955-//4

//IT REPORTEDLY WAS DAMASCO WHO CONVINCED THE PRESIDENT THAT.

IN THE CURRENT CRITICAL SITUATION. THE CABINET REORGANIZATION WAS

MECESSARY TO STAVE OFF A MILITARY COUP. HE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE

IN SELECTING THE NEW MINISTERS. RESERVING FOR HIMSELF THE KEY

MINISTRY. WHICH GIVES HIM IMPORTANT SECURITY AND POLITICAL RE
SPONSIBILITIES.//Y

//ARMY CHIEF GENERAL NUMA LAPLANE STAUNCHLY SUPPORTS DAMASCO

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AND MAY HAVE ENCOURAGEDHHIM TO TAKE THE INTERIOR PORTFOLIO. SINCE THE ARMY IS THE MOST POWERFUL SERVICE. DAMASCO IS LIKELY TO REMAIN IN HIS POST. DESPITE THE RIFT HIS APPOINTMENT HAS CAUSED IN MILITARY UNITY. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEMENT)

2. COLONDIA: COLOMBIA HAS DECIDED TO PERMIT HIGHER CEILING
PRICES POR CRUDE OIL PRODUCED BROM BOTH OLD AND NEW WELLS IN ORDER
TO ENCOURAGE EXPLORATION AND STEM DECLIMING PRODUCTION. THE
GOVERNMENT HAS LONG RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR HIGHER OIL PRICES.
BUT HAS DELAYED TAKING ACTION BECAUSE IT WARTED TO AVOID REPERCUSSIONS
FROM PUSHING UP ENERGY COSTS.

THE PRICE PAID BY COLOMBIAN REFINERIES FOR CRUDE FROM OLD WELLS WILL BE INCREASED TO \$3.50 A BARREL--UP FROM \$3.65 A BARREL. ONE OF THE LOWEST PRICES IN THE WORLD. OIL FROM NEW WELLS WILL COST PROM \$5.50 TO \$7 A BARREL; THE HIGHER PRICES WILL APPLY TO DEEP WELLS AND WELLS IN DISTANT REGIONS-Y

COLOMBIA'S OIL INDUSTRY HAS DETERIORATED SHARPLY BECAUSE OF THE PRICE CONTROLS. PRODUCTION HAS BEEN DECLINING SINCE 1970 AND EXPORTS OF CRUDE OIL STOPPED IN EARLY 1974. EXPLORATION HAS ALSO

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FALLEN OFF. NO IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL WELL HAS BEEN DRILLED IN 11 YEARS, AND RECOVERABLE RESERVES MOW TOTAL 628 MILLION BARRELS--ONLY TEN YEARS CONSUMPTION. #/

WITH DEMAND FOR ENERGY RISING 8 PERCENT A YEAR AND OIL PRODUC-TION FALLING RAPIDLY, FEAR OP A LARGE IMPORT BILL FOR OIL IS ADDING TO THE GOVERNMENTSE WORRIES. OIL IMPORTS COST 43 MILLION LAST YEAR-Y

MOST OIL COMPANIES, WHICH MUST GIVE PRIBRITY TO COLOMBIA'S DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, WILL REACT TO THE NEW PRICES BY EXPANDING PRODUCTION OF OIL FROM OLD WELLS. THIS WILL ALLOW COLOMBIA TO HEET ITS DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS AT LEAST THROUGH 3976. THE COMPANIES WILL ALSO EXPAND EXPLORATION, BUT PRODUCTION FROM NEW DISCOVERIES PROBABLY WILL NOT ADD SUBSTANTIALLY TO DOMESTIC SUPPLIES BEFORE 1980. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 INPDET.A

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EUROPEAN BRIEF 129-75.4

LABOR UNION RALLY MONDAY NIGHT ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF LISBON

TO APPEAL AGAIN FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT. PRO-GONCALVES

SOURCES SAID THE RALLY WAS THE FIRST IS A SERIES OF

PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS TO DRUM UP POPULAR SUPPORT FOR

THE PRIME MINISTER. Y

GONCALVES' DECISION TO APPEAR IN PUBLIC—A RARE

OCCURRENCE SINCE THE PRESENT CHALLENGE TO HIS LEADERSHIP

BEGAN—FOLLOWED SEVERAL DAYS OF EMERGENCY MEETINGS WITH

HIS CABINET AND RENEWED EFFORTS BY PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES

TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES AMONG THE VARIOUS FACTIONS OF THE

RULING ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. \*

THE ANTI-COMMUNIST GROUP LED BY MAJOR MELO ANTUNES
IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORT TO REACH A COMPROMISE WITH THE
RADICAL LEFTIST GROUP OF GENERAL OTELO DE CARVALHO.
CARVALHO REPORTEDLY IS SEEKING ASSURANCES THAT THE
REVOLUTION WILL NOT VEER TO THE RIGHT IF THE PRESENT REGIME
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ONE KEY OFFICER WHO HAS REMAINED IN THE BACKGROUND

DURING MOST OF THE PRESENT POWER STRUGGLE IS ADMIRAL ROSA

COUTINHO. THE AMBITIOUS ADMIRAL TRAVELED TO HAVAMA

ON MONDAY TO BEGIN A TWO-WEEK VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA.

AFTER SPENDING A WEEK IN CUBA, HE WILL HEAD THE PORTUGUESE

DELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE OF NONALIGNED NATIONS IN

LIMA-WHICH PORTUGAL IS ATTENDING AS AN OBSERVER-BEFORE

RETURNING HOME ON SEPTEMBER 2. ROSA COUTINHO'S ABSENCE

DURING THIS CRITICAL PERIOD MAY PERMIT HIM TO AVOID TAKING

SIDES IN THE CURRENT STRUGGLE AND MAINTAIN HIS POSITION

AND INFLUENCE WHATEVER THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME.Y

GONCALVES' COMMUNIST PARTY SUPPORTERS, MEANWHILE, HAVE SCHEDULED ANOTHER RALLY FOR TUESDAY IN THE NORTHERN CITY OF PORTO. THE COMMUNISTS' OBJECTIVE IN CONTINUING TO HOLD RALLIES WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE KNOWN TO BE OVERWHELMINGLY DATE:
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HOSTILE IS NOT YET CLEAR. IT MAY SIMPLY BE AN EFFORT BY THE

COMMUNISTS TO ASSERT THEIR RIGHT TO MEET WHEREVER THEY CHOOSE,

ALTHOUGH IT COULD, ALONG WITH GONCALVES' RE-EMERGENCE IN

PUBLIC, BE THE INITIAL EFFORT IN A COMMUNIST COUNTEROFFENSIVE.

THE 3D-MINUTE GENERAL STRIKE CALLED FOR TUESDAY BY THE

COMMUNIST-DOMINATED TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION TO PROTEST

THE RECENT WAVE OF ANTI-COMMUNIST VIOLENCE HAS BEEN SCALED

DOWN TO APPLY ONLY IN THE LISBON AREA.Y

SECURITY FORCES ON MONDAY FIRED ON A MOB THAT ATTACKED AND DESTROYED THE COMMUNIST PARTY HEADQUARTERS IN PONTE DE LIMA, A SMALL MUTOWN NORTH OF PORTO. ONE PERSON WAS KILLED AND 100 WERE INJURED.Y

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WHICH OCCURRED ON THE IZLAND OF TERCETRA. THE DATE:

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PORTUGUESE CONTINGENT AT LAJES AIR BASE WAS PLACED ON ALERTANTI-COMMUNIST SENTIMENT WIN THE AZORES HAS BEEN A KEY MOTIVATING FACTOR IN THE ISLANDERS' DRIVE FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM THE MAINLAND AND RECURRING DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE PRESENT TIME COULD BE EXPLOITED BY SEPARATISTS TO TRIGGER AN INDEPENDENCE DECLARATIONATIONALLY

2. ROMANIA: A ROMANIAN DIPLOMAT HAS SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY WAS THE ONLY SOVIET EUROPEAN ALLY BREZHNEV HAS
NEVER OFFICIALLY VISITED AND THAT GROMYKO HAS NOT
OFFICIALLY VISITED THE COUNTRY SINCE SHORTLY AFTER
HIS APPOINTMENT IN L957.4

IF WHAT IS MEANT ARE FORMAL, BILATERAL VISITS ACCOMPANIED BY ALL THE USUAL PROTOCOL, THEN THIS ASSERTION IS CORRECT. IN THE DECADE SINCE CEAUSESCU ASSUMED POWER, HOWEVER, BOTH BREZHNEV AND GROMYKO HAVE VISITED BUCHAREST FOR VARIOUS MULTILATERAL MEETI GS AND HAVE ALSO STOPPED BRIEFLY IN THE ROMANIAN CAPITAL WHEN PASSING THROUGH. THEIR LAST DATE: ORIG:

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RECORDED VISITS WERE IN LAZL, WHEN GROMAKO ATTENDED A WARSAW PACT FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN FEBRUARY AND BREZHNEV PULLED INTO BUCHAREST STATION IN APRIL EN ROUTE TO BULGARIA. ON THE LATTER OCCASION CEAUSESCU WAS NOT ON HAND TO GREET BREZHNEV. THIS SNUB WAS PROBABLY IN RETALIATION FOR ONE BY BREZH-NEV THE YEAR BEFORE. AT THAT TIME, THE SOVIET PARTY CHIEF WAS TO HEAD A DELEGATION TO BUCHAREST FOR THE SIGNING OF THE LONG-DELAYED SOVIET-ROMANIAN FRIEND-SHIP TREATY. TWO DAYS BEFORE THE VISIT BREZHNEV DEVELOPED A DIPLOMATIC ILLNESS AND COULD NOT TRAVEL. THE SAME DAY HE WAS TO ARRIVE IN ROMANIA, BREZHNEV ATTENDED A SOCCER MATCH IN MOSCOW. 3 IN 1968, BREZH-NEV, KOSYGIN, GROMYKO, AND GRECHKO STOPPED IN IASI EN ROUTE TO A WARSAW PACT MEETING IN SOFIA, PROB-ABLY TO DETERMINE WHETHER ROMANIA WOULD SUPPORT MOSCOW'S STAND AGAINST DUBCEK'S "PRAGUE SPRING" IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. BY THAT TIME, HOWEVER, BREZHNEV

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WAS UNDOUBTEDLY WELL AWARE OF THE FUTILITY OF TRYING
TO INFLUENCE CEAUSESCU—HAVING ATTEMPTED BUT FAILED
TO SWERVE CEAUSESCU FROM HIS NATIONALIST COURSE

DURING A "SECRET, UNOFFICIAL" VISIT TO BUCHAREST IN
MAY 1966, AND AT A COMBINED WARSAW PACT — CEMA EX
TRAVAGANZA IN BUCHAREST IN JULY OF THE SAME YEAR.4

IN REVIEWING THE TRAVELS OF OTHER HIGH SOVIET

OFFICIALS TO BUCHAREST DURING THE PAST DECADE, IT IS

APPARENT THAT SOVIET PREMIER KOSYGIN IS THE MOST

FREQUENT VISITOR. IN RECOGNITION OF A SLIGHT IM—

PROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH BUCHAREST—OR PERHAPS

TO PUT PRESSURE ON CEAUSESCU—THE SOVIETS DID SEND

KIRILENKO TO THE ROMANIAN PARTY CONGRESS LAST

NOVEMBER. THE ROMANIAN PARTY PROGRAM, HOWEVER, CAUSED

THE TEMPERATURE TO DROP AGAIN, AND THE KIRILENKO

VISIT WAS THE LAST SOVIET ATTEMPT TO USE PERSONAL

DIPLOMACY TO CHANGE THE INDEPENDENT ATTITUDE OF THE

ROMANIANS. (CONFIDENTIAL) E-2 IMPDET.H

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FEDAYEEN: LEADERS OF THE LESS RADICAL FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION CHAIRMAN YASIR ARAFAT, MAY ADOPT MORE EXTREME POLICIES IN THE EVENT ANOTHER EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT IS IMPLEMENTED. THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EARLY AGREEMENT HAS ALREADY STRAINED EGYPTIAN-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS AND PROMPTED THE PALESTINIANS TO MOVE EVEN CLOSER TO SYRIA-4

ARAFAT, ACCORDING TO A PRO-FEDAYZEN NEWSPAPER IN BEIRUT, HAS SAID THAT HIS FATAH ORGANIZATION TREJECTS THE AMERICAN SETTLEMENT AND WILL RESIST IT THROUGH THE BARRELS OF OUR GUNS-" ALTHOUGH SUCH RHETORIC IS USUALLY INTENDED FOR INTERNAL FEDAYEEN CONSUMPTION, IT MIGHT IN THIS CASE, PRESAGE AN INCREASE IN TERRORIST ACTIVITY DESIGNED TO IMPROVE ARAFAT'S POSITION. SINCE ARAFATM'S WIDELY PUBLICIZED APPEARANCE AT THE UN LAST YEAR, HIS PRESTIGE HAS DIMINISHED STEADILY AS A RESULT OF HIS FAILURE TO PRODUCE ANYTHING CONCRETE FOR THE PALESTINIANS.Y

LAST MARCH, FATAH COMMANDOS RAIDED TEL AVIV IN AN EFFORT TO DATE: ORIG: UNIT: EXT:

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UNDERMINE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE A SECOND

EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT. THAT ATTACK HAD NO DIRECT EFFECT

ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT HELPED PROTECT ARAFAT AGAINST CHARGES

BY FEDAYEEN "REJECTIONISTS" THAT HE WAS COOPERATING WITH EGYPT

AND THE US IN THE FALSE HOPE THAT THE PALESTINIANS WOULD GAIN

SOMETHING FROM NEGOTIATIONS.Y

ARAFAT'S STRATEGY IN THE NEAR FUTURE WILL BE TO MINIMIZE THE DISAFFECTION OF LEADERS OF THE SYRIAN-CONTROLLED SAIDA GROUP AND THE MARXIST-ORIENTED POPULAR DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE, BOTH OF WHICH HAVE GENERALLY SUPPORTED HIS CONCILIATORY POLICIES ON A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. FAILING THIS, ARAFAT WILL TRY NOT TO BE VERY FAR BEHIND THEM IN ANY SWING TOWARD MORE RADICAL POLICIES ON POLITICAL STRATEGY AND THE USE OF TERRORISM.Y

SYRIA'S STAND WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE FORCE IN

DETERMINING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE MORE CONCILIATORY FEDAYEEN

GROUPS OPPOSE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT. IF THE EGYPTIANS ARE ABLE

TO REASSURE SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD AND LIMIT SYRIAN CRITICISM OF

EGYPT, THOSE PALESTINIANS WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO FOLLOW DAMASCUS!

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LEAD. THIS WOULD FURTHER WEAKEN ARAFAT.Y

MORE MAY BE KNOWN OF SYRIA'S POSITION ON A FURTHER EGYPTIAN—IS—
RAELI AGREEMENT WHEN DAMASCUS RESPONDS TO THE LATEST PALESTINIAN
INITIATIVE TO IMPLEMENT THE "PALESTINIAN—SYRIAN JOINT POLITICAL
AND MILITARY COMMAND." THE COMMAND. WAS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY ASAD
DURING THE MARCH ROUND OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. THE PROPOSAL LAY
DORMANT UNTIL LATE LAST WEEK, HOWEVER, WHEN THE PLO CENTRAL
COMMITTEE CALLED FOR THE "HIGHEST SPEED POSSIBLE" TOWARD SETTING
UP A JOINT BODY THAT COULD TAKE A UNIFIED STAND ON "CURRENT
DEVELOPMENTS."Y

ABETS PALESTINIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM, ARAFAT AND HIS ASSOCIATES WILL MOVE TOWARD A MORE DIRECT AND FORCEFUL CRITICISM OF EGYPT, THE US. AND THE PRINCIPLE OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. IF UNCHECKED BY EGYPTIAN PROMISES OF EARLY NEGOTIATING PROGRESS ON PALESTINIAN ISSUES, THIS COULD LEAD ULTIMATELY TO A NEW ROUND OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN ISRAEL AND ABROAD. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 IMPDET.+

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